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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/200,874	11/27/1998	YOSHIO KIMURA	35.C13132	9880
5514	7590	04/16/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			WALLERSON, MARK E	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2626	DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004	

[Signature]

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/200,874	KIMURA, YOSHIO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark E. Wallerson	2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

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Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendment filed on **12/1/2003**.
2. This application has been reconsidered. Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shimazaki (U.S. 6,473,197).

With respect to claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15, Shimazaki discloses an image processing method comprising inputting output characteristics data corresponding to each of a

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plurality of output apparatuses (column 5, lines 31-62) including a reference output apparatus (12); calculating density correction data corresponding to the other output apparatus on the basis of the output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus and the other apparatus (column 3, lines 7-19, column 5, lines 41-62 and column 6, lines 13-21); managing the density correction data corresponding to each output apparatus (column 5, lines 41-62), and updating the density correction data corresponding to the output characteristics of the other output apparatus according to the output characteristics of the reference apparatus (column 15, lines 41-59).

With respect to claim 2, Shimazaki discloses the output characteristics data is formed by a calibration function of the output apparatus (column 3, lines 20-40 and column 5, lines 41-54).

With regard to claim 3, Shimazaki discloses measuring a color of an image formed by an image signal corrected on the basis of the correction data formed by a calibration process after completion after completion of the calibration process (column 5, lines 41-54).

With regard to claim 4, Shimazaki discloses setting a designation of the reference output apparatus (column 5, lines 27-35).

With respect to claim 6, Shimazaki discloses transmitting the correction data to a computer (host) (10) and the computer correcting input data based on the density correction data (column 5, lines 31-62).

With respect to claim 8, Shimazaki discloses image forming means for forming an image based on the correction data (column 15, lines 41-59).

With regard to claims 13 and 14, Shimazaki discloses the printers perform calibration of the density correction table according to a change in the state of the printers (column 14, lines 6-14).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimazaki (U. S. 6,434,197) in view of Konishi (U. S. 5,950,036).

With respect to claim 3, Shimazaki differs from claim 5 in that he does not clearly disclose setting the designation of the output apparatus based on the instruction of a user. Konishi discloses setting the designation of the output apparatus based on the instruction of a user (column 3, lines 51-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Shimazaki to set the designation of the output apparatus based on the instruction of a user. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Shimazaki by the teaching of Konishi in order to obtain more user control and ease of use.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Wallerson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8581.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for formal communications intended for entry)

(for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA.
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

MARK WALLERSON